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Mahasati Madanrekha



MAHASATI MADANREKHA

Nature is very strange. When it gave beauty, softness and smell to the rose, it also produced sharp thorns with it. It made woman the symbol of beauty, gentleness, good character, understanding for the responsibilities and the sacrifice, it also made thorns in the form of people greedy for the beauty. These thorns have become responsible for the troubles and pain for many.

Madanrekha was not only an idol of miraculous beauty but also the live goddess of good character and adventure. The king Manirath, greedy for her beauty becomes so much obsessed with her beauty that he kills his younger brother Yugbahu who was like his son. Madanrekha runs away in the forest alone to protect her character leaving behind the attachments for family, son, house and kingdom. She protects her character till the end facing troubles and fear at every step. To her the character is even more valuable than her life.

In jain katha literature Sati Madanrekha's (Mayanreha) character is very much inspiring, popular and full of ideals.

Politeness, intelligence, adventure, good character, responsibility, patience which can't be moved, and the most important thing the inner desire to give up everything to protect her character, all these ideals and inspirations are evident through the Madanrekha's life. Madanrekha is a live goddess to the women's strength. Her life story is very exciting.

In this book Madanrekha's character is painted in a very sensitive way on the basis of the ancient literature and Uttaradhyayan Sutra and the inspirator being the Shramansangh's head advisory minister and jain literature's scholar shri Suman muniji maharaj.

—Shrichand Surana "Saras"

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MADANREKHA

Manirath, the king of Sudarshanpur and the yuvraj Yugbahu were brothers and they loved each other very much. People compared them with Ram-Laxman pair. Manirath used to take care of all the facilities to make Yugbahu happy. And Yugbahu used to follow whatever his brother told him to do and was always ready to do anything for him. Manirath was childless. Yugbahu had a son named Chandrayash.

Brother! This game will never end... It's time for supper. Let us go.



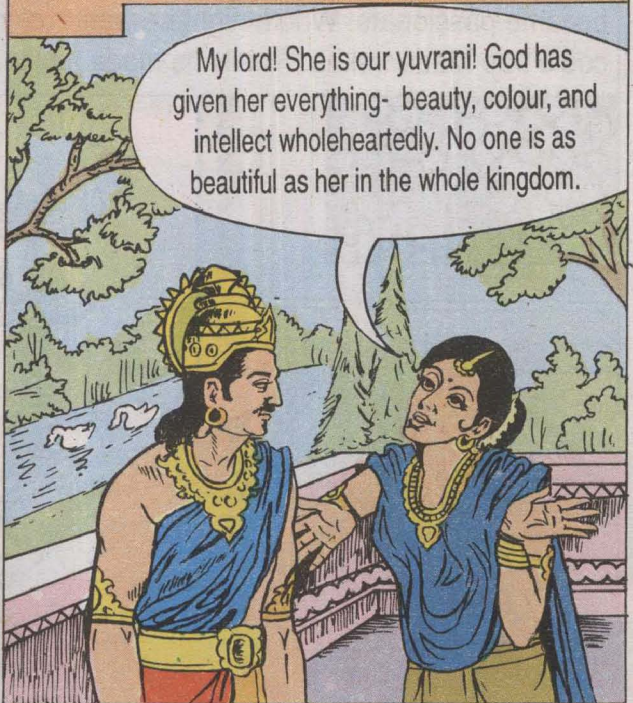
Once during the monsoon Manirath was looking at the sunset from the terrace of his palace. In the nearby garden of Yugbahu's palace, his wife Madanrekha was playing with her friends while swinging.



Suddenly Manirath saw Madanrekha.



A maid, standing near Manirath said-

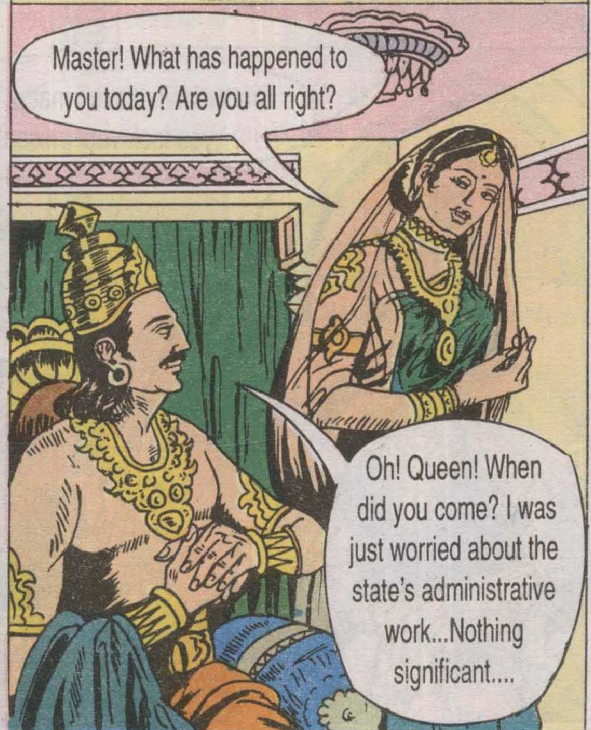


Manirath kept asking about Madanrekha for quite sometime.

Manirath felt sad with deep sigh as darkness approached. He was sitting with his hand on the head.



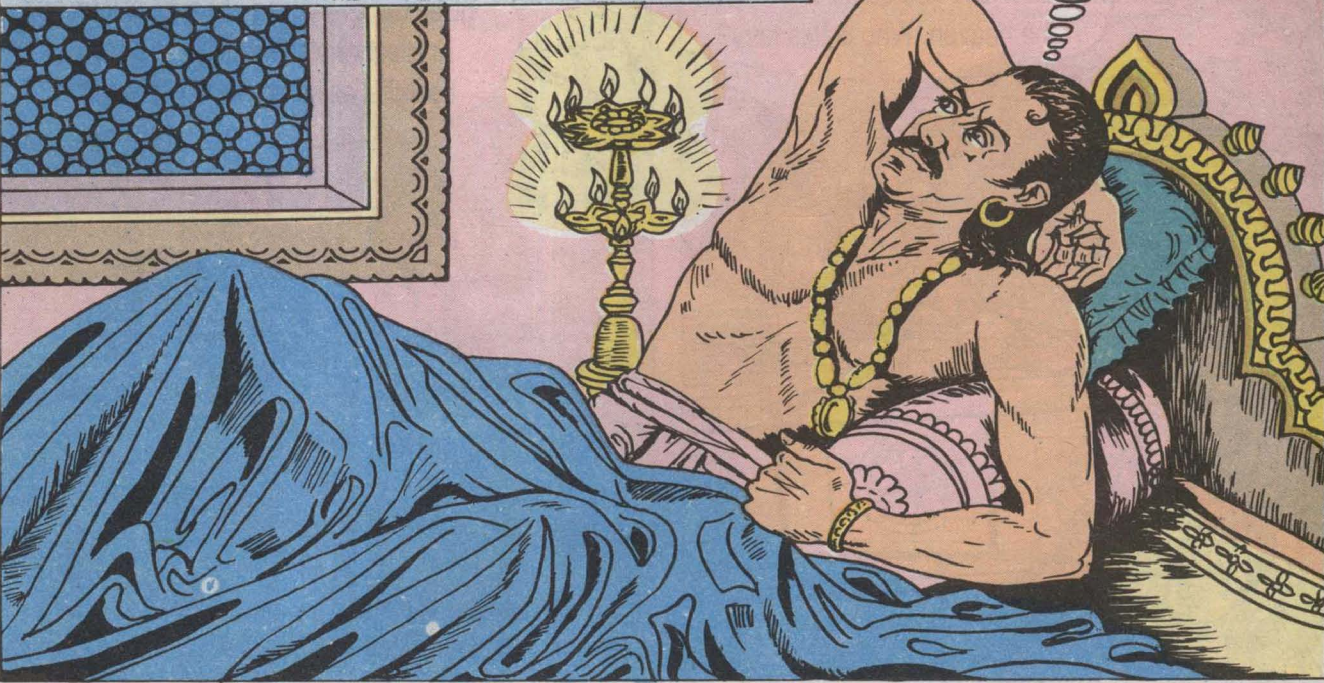
Then the Queen entered the palace. Seeing the king sad she came nearer and asked-



Oh! Queen! When did you come? I was just worried about the state's administrative work...Nothing significant....

The king Manirath could not sleep the whole night. He became passionate. Whole night he was thinking how he could trap Madanrekha. Finally he made a plan.

I will put this plan into action tomorrow morning right away.



In the morning Manirath went to the royal hall with sad face. Younger brother, yuvraj Yugbahu came to bow down. Seeing the king sad he asked-

Brother! What's the matter? Today you look very anxious.



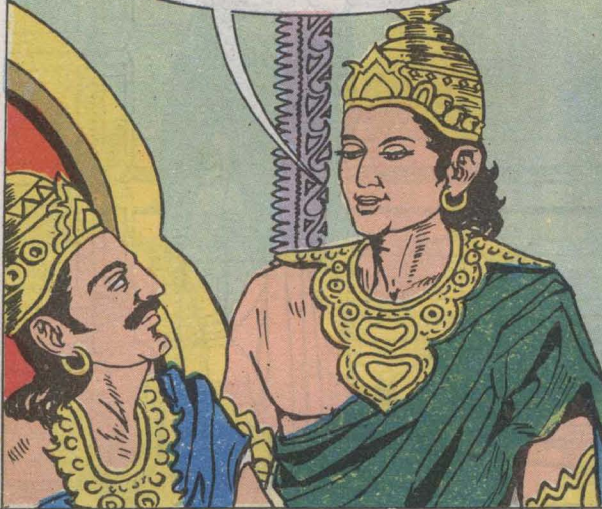
Manirath spreaded his net.

No-No! Nothing! Some troubles come uninvited. You don't worry, my brother. Everything will be fine.



Yugbahu said-

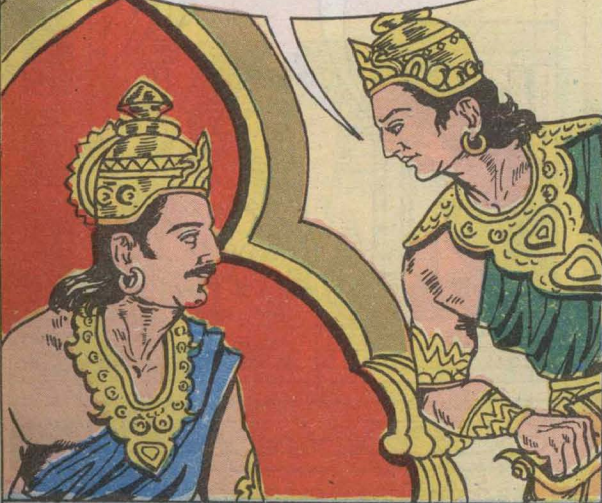
No, brother! How can I sit quietly when you are sad? I can give my life for your happiness...Don't hide anything from me. Please, tell me what's the matter?



Brother! The enemies on the other side of the border are giving trouble. They are robbing people repeatedly in the neighbour cities. People are unhappy. That's why I think that I should go for the war and defeat the enemies...



Brother, You worry for such a small thing. Please let me go. I will defeat the enemies and bring them to your feet.



Manirath wanted the same. Yugbahu went to the border of Malav with the army.

Here, grabbing the opportunity Manirath called maid named Rambha. He gave her his pearl necklace and said-

Rambha, Madanrekha has overpowered my mind. Now you have to manage to bring her to my palace. You will be re-embursed more after the work is over.

My lord! Your wish will come true.



Manirath pointed at the large plate filled with the ornaments and decorative articles and told Rambha-

Rambha! First go and give this gift to Madanrekha from me...



Rambha came to Madanrekha's palace with the large plate.

Yuvrani, the maid Rambha bows down to you! Today the king is very much pleased with you. This gift is from the king...

Oh! So precious ornaments! Such good clothes and these decorative articles... What is need for these now...?



Yuvrani! This is the favour of happiness from the king. Keep it, the king is very much pleased with you.

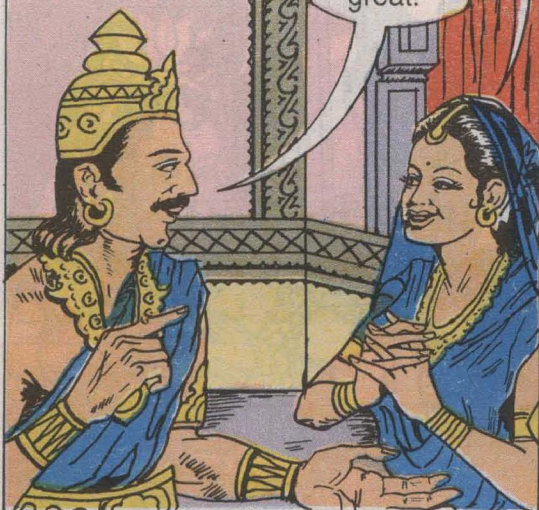


Madanrekha respected the king Manirath like a father. So she accepted his gift with respect.

Rambha informed the king Manirath-

My lord! The bird had picked up the seed. Now she is almost trapped...

Vow!
You are great!



A few days later, Manirath again sent Rambha with gift items to Madanrekha. When Rambha came again with new gifts something struck to Madanrekha. She returned them with disregard and said-

I don't want all these things. What would a woman do with such decorative things whose husband is away from home?
Take them away...



Rambha said with sarcastic laugh-

Yuvrani! The king loves you very much. He will get hurt if you do not accept his gift.
Please keep it for the king's sake...



Clever Madanrekha immediately understood the meaning of Rambha's sarcastic laughter. She scolded her-

Rambha! Be careful... You are crossing the limits.



Rambha again thought it to be a joke from Madanrekha. She said with smile-



Madanrekha got angry as her character was being pointed.



She held maid from her plate and kept an open sword on her neck. Rambha started shaking.



Rambha came to Manirath-

My lord! Who we thought as a goat is a dangerous lioness... Today I could escape, but now I'll never go to her again.. I don't want your prize...



Rambha went away after saying this.

Two days later when he got the chance Manirath himself went alone to Yugbahu's palace. He knocked at the Madanrekha's door.

Who can be here so late in the night?



Madanrekha asked loudly-

Who is it?

What do you need?



It's me! Manirath! Open the door! See, what things I have brought for you.

Madanrekha perceived the bad intentions of Manirath. She answered from inside-

Brother-in-law! You are mistaken. This is the room of your younger brother. Your room is on the other side. Please go there.



Manirath said-

No, I want to come to your room only. Brother has gone for war, right? You are sad. That's why I've brought some gifts for you to make you happy... Please open the door...



Madanrekha was shocked. She locked the door from inside and from the other door, she went to her mother-in-law and told her everything. Clever mother knew about the bad habits of her son. She called Manirath-

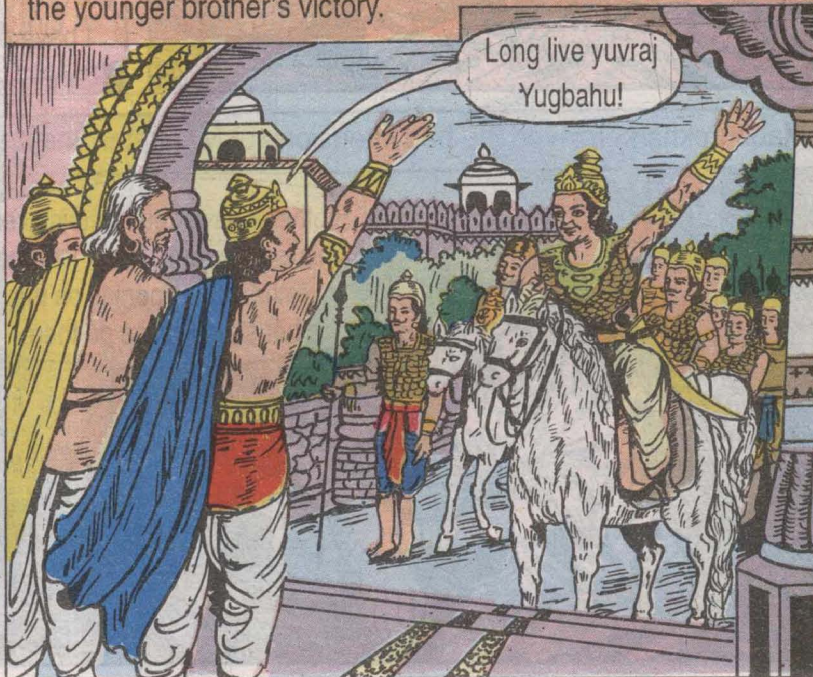
Manirath! You have mistaken the way! This is not your palace. It's your younger brother's palace... Go to your palace.



Listening to mother's voice Manirath felt as if hundreds of pots filled with water were poured on him. He quietly went to his palace hiding his face.



During this period, Yugbahu won over the enemies and returned safe to the capital. Manirath was feeling sad from within. But he showed happiness on his face and celebrated the younger brother's victory.



One day Yugbahu told Madanrekha-

Dear! It's spring time, weather is also very good and You are going to have our second baby soon. That's why I feel like going to the garden and have fun.

Master! Even I feel the same. Why wait, let us go.



Next day Yugbahu-Madanrekha went to the holiday house in the royal garden to enjoy the spring.

See how pleasant the weather is! We'll stay here for a few days.



Crooked Manirath was keeping track of every movement of Yugbahu and Madanrekha. A spy informed him-

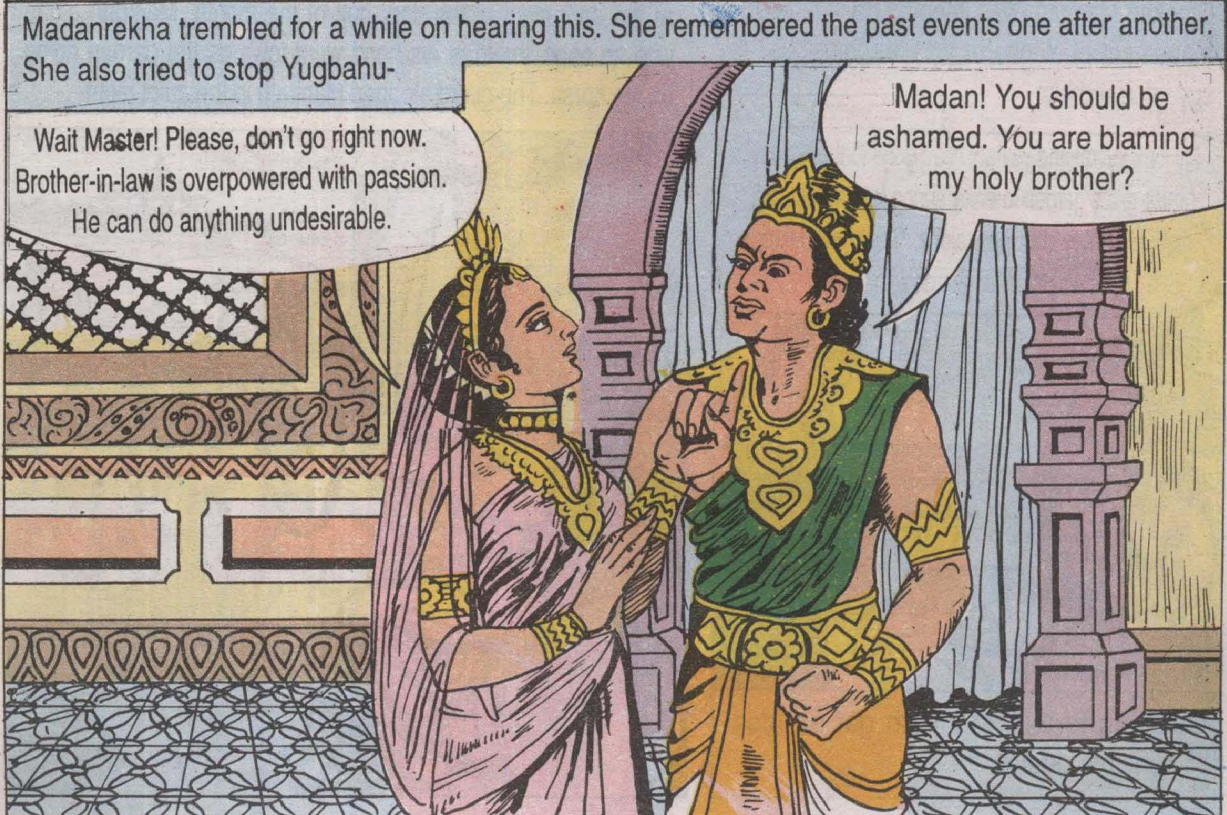
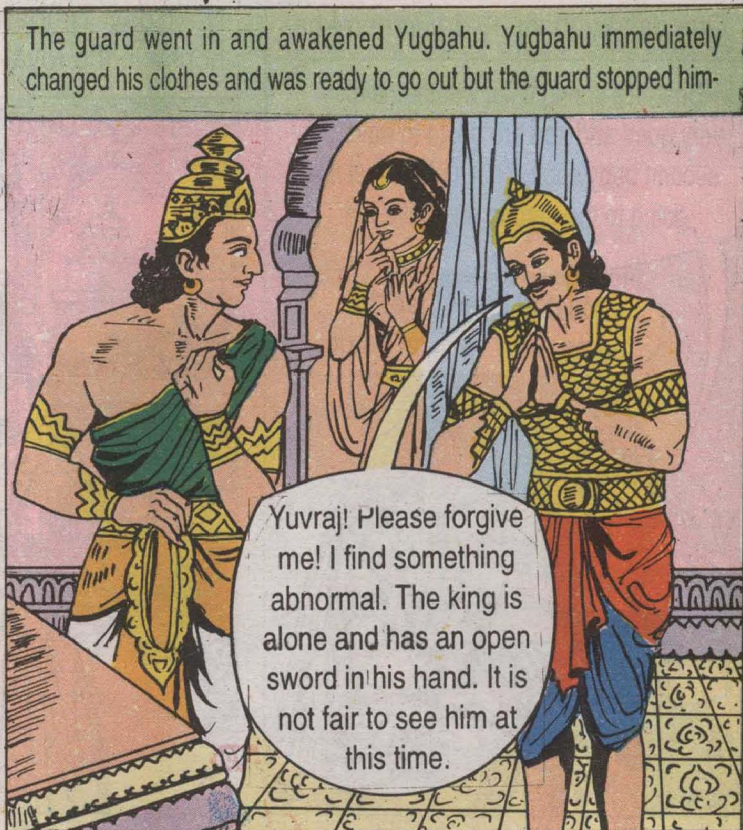
My lord! yuvraj and yuvrani have gone to the holiday house in the garden to enjoy spring for a week... At night also, they stay there alone.. They have taken only two personal guards with them.



Listening to this, Manirath got an idea to fulfill his desire.

At the dark night of the dark half of the month, Manirath alone with an open sword in his hand went towards the garden riding on the horse. The guard stopped Manirath in the quiet night-





Madanrekha said-

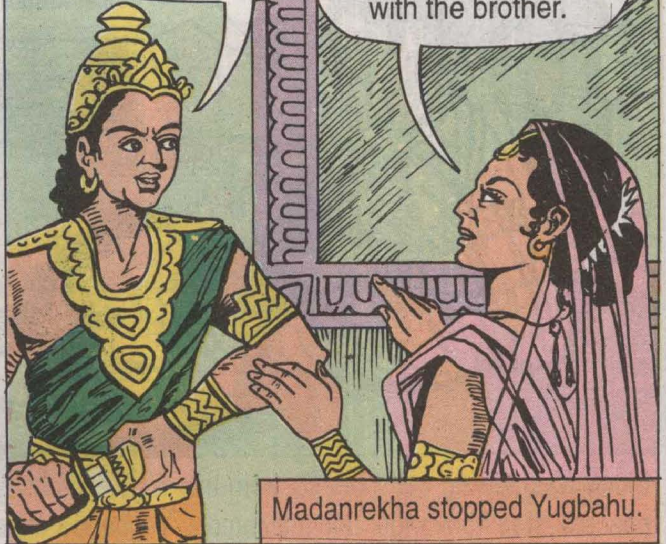
Master! It's not just the blame it's true. Till date I had hidden everything from you, just because the love between the two brothers shouldn't disturb. But today I want to tell you everything that is true.



When Madanrekha told about the past events, Yugbahu got very mad. He took the sword in his hand.

He is a rogue in the face of the brother. Now I'll teach him a lesson.

No! No Master! It's not advisable to fight with the brother.



Madanrekha stopped Yugbahu.

By then Manirath entered the room hurriedly. Before Yugbahu understands anything, he injured him severely with the sword.



And Manirath ran away from the back door.

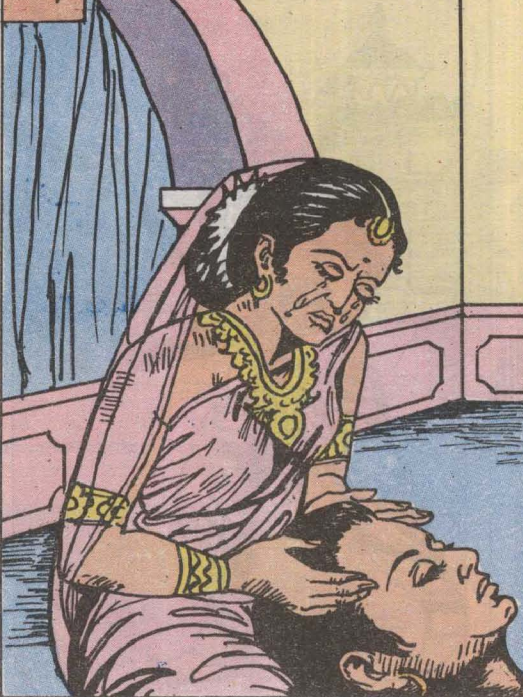


Blood flew from Yugbahu's body. He was struggling with the life. Madanrekha took his head in her lap and was giving him consolation.

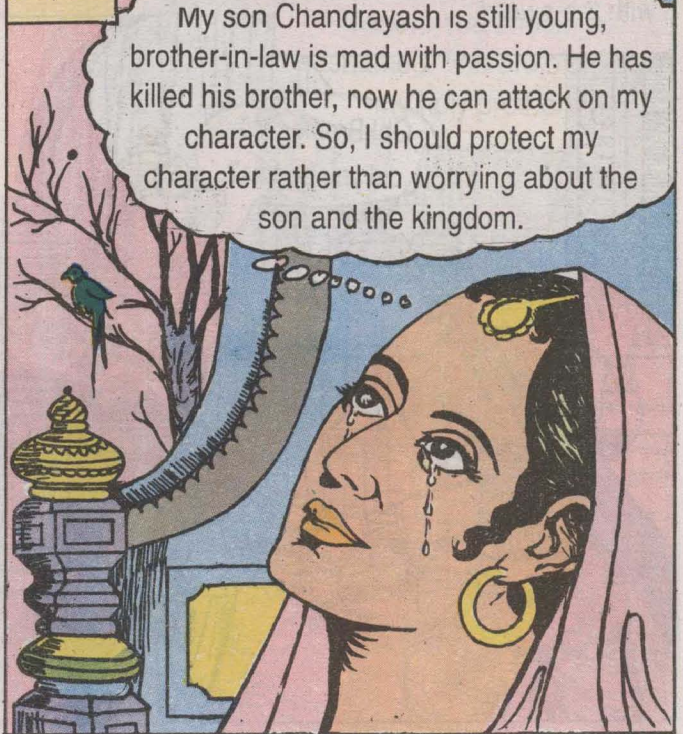


Blood was flowing continuously from the Yugbahu's body and Madanrekha was trying to make his mind peaceful, free from anger and attachment. Yugbahu's anger subsided listening to the last devotion.

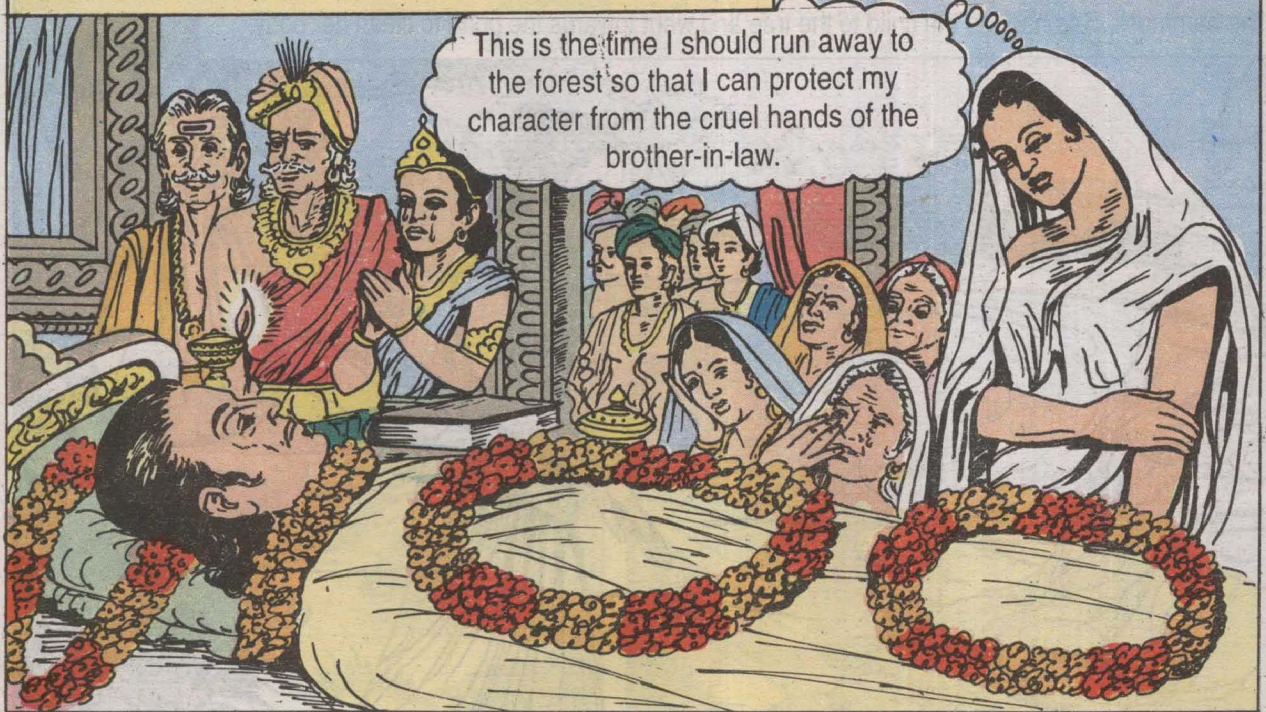
Suddenly he got a deep hiccough. Yugbahu closed his eyes. Madanrekha wept severely for a few minutes.



Madanrekha controlled herself after weeping for sometime.



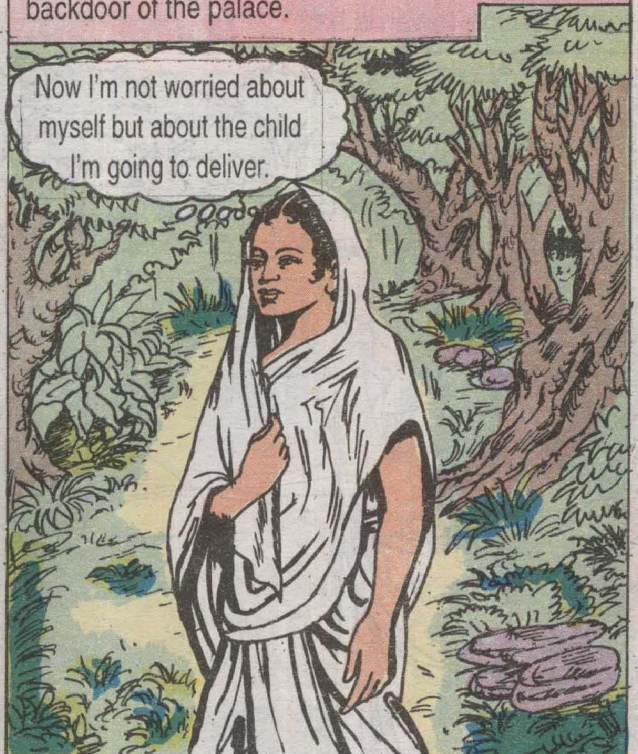
Till then the prince Chandrayash, the minister, the commander-in-chief etc. gathered and were busy with the preparation for the funeral ceremony of the yuvraj Yugbahu. Madanrekha thought-



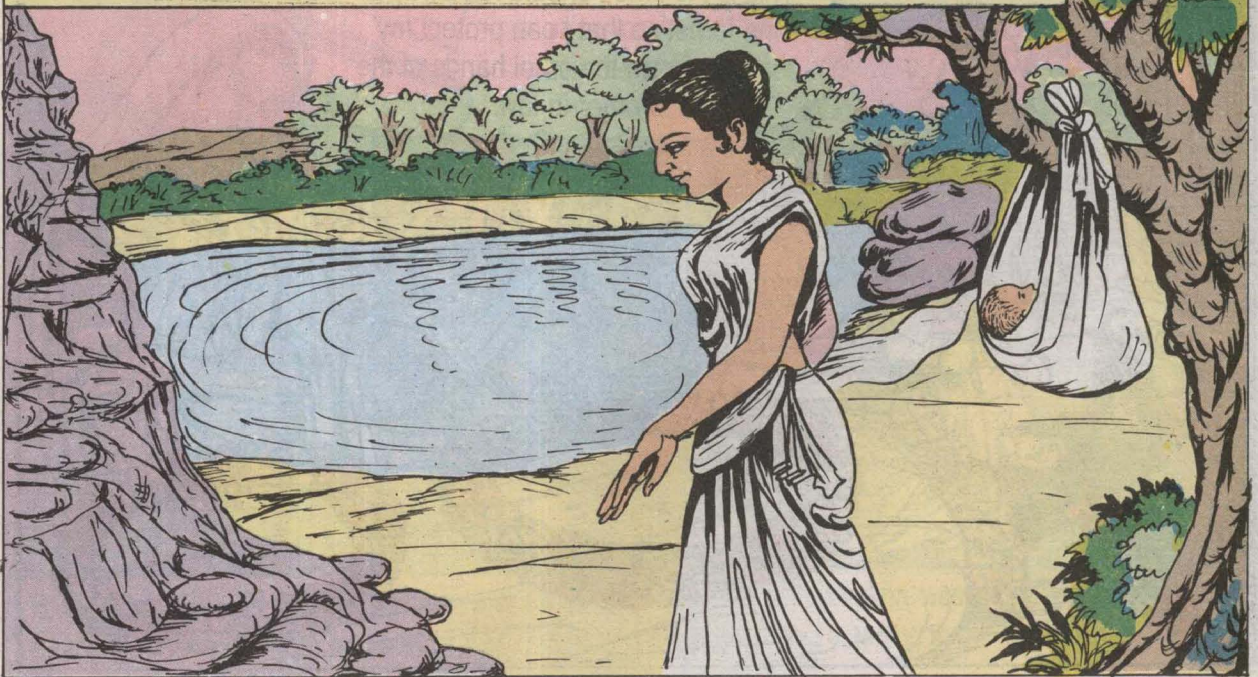
Madanrekha was roaming alone in the wild forest for many days.



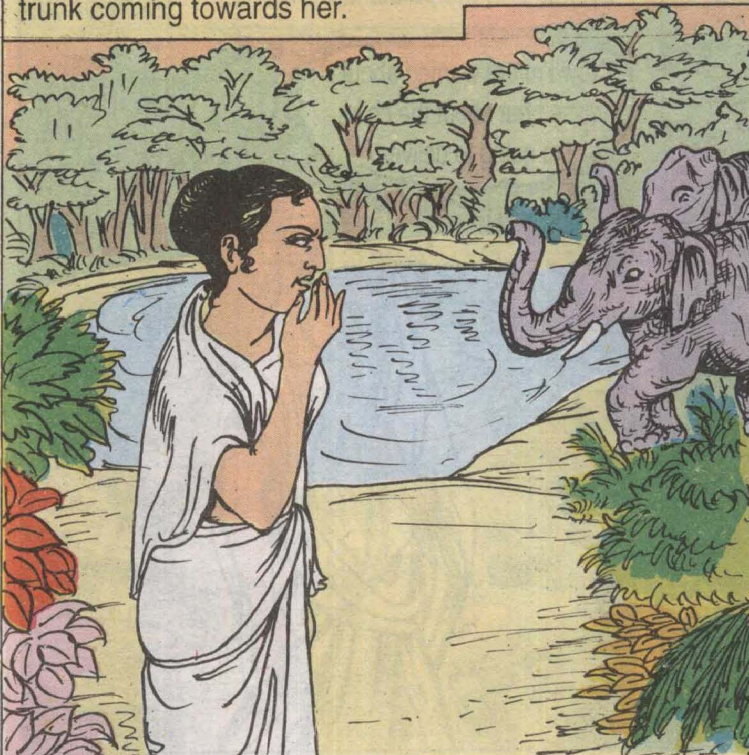
Madanrekha went towards the forest from the backdoor of the palace.



She reached near the mountain protecting herself from the wild animals. There was a large pond in the front and the wild forest on the other side. There only, she gave birth to a son. She tore one part of her saree and prepared the hammock. She hanged the child to the tree and went towards the pond to clean her body.



She saw a mad roaring elephant, ready to attack with his trunk coming towards her.



Madanrekha tried to hide behind a huge tree.



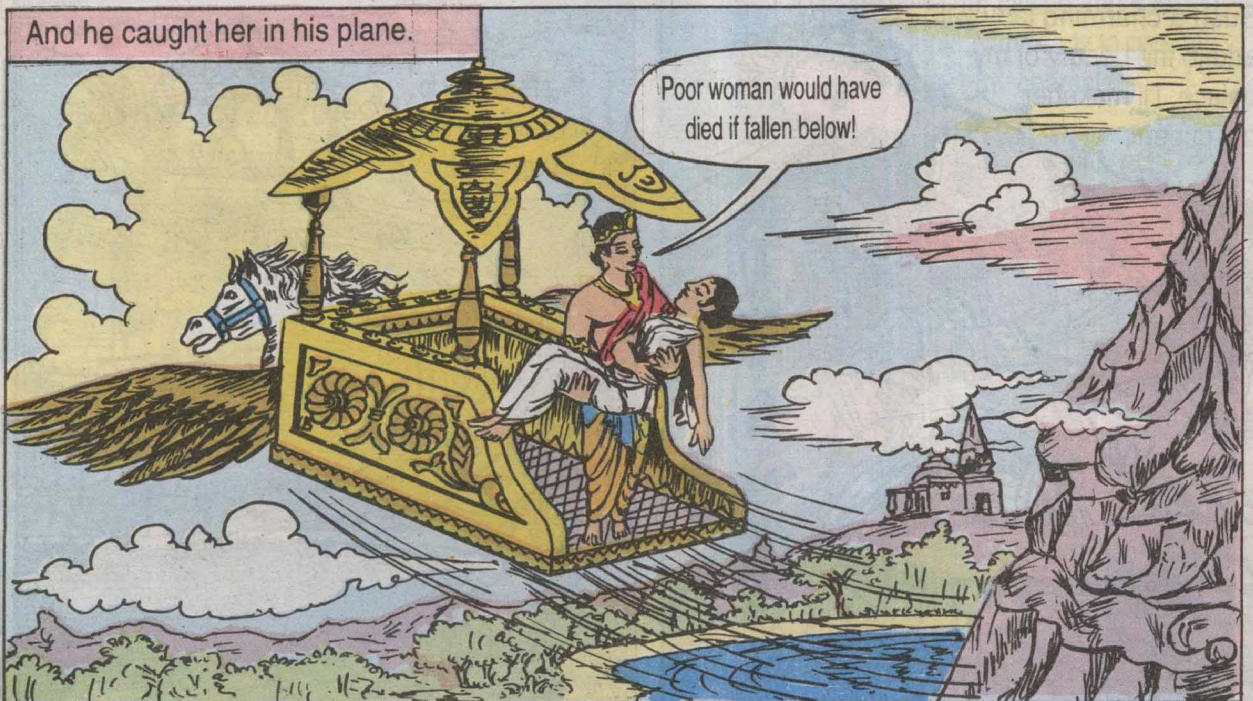
The arrogant elephant picked her up with his trunk and threw her up in the air like a ball.



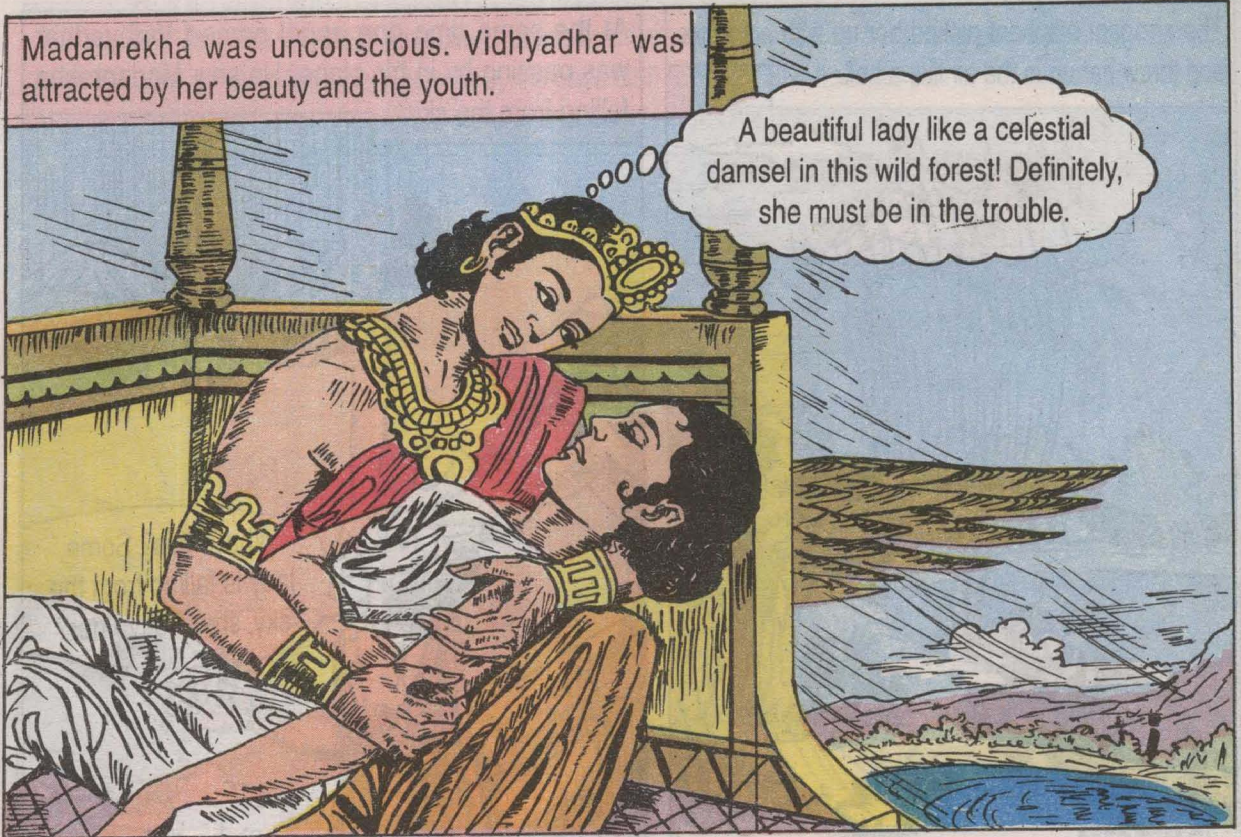
At the same time one angel named Vidhyadhar was passing by in his plane. He saw Madanrekha falling from the sky.



And he caught her in his plane.

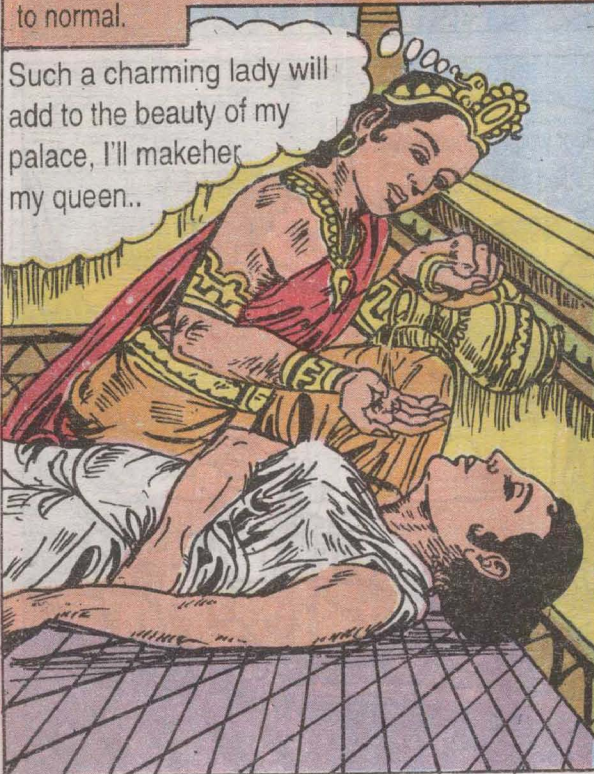


Madanrekha was unconscious. Vidhyadhar was attracted by her beauty and the youth.



He sprinkled cold water to bring Madanrekha back to normal.

Such a charming lady will add to the beauty of my palace, I'll make her my queen..

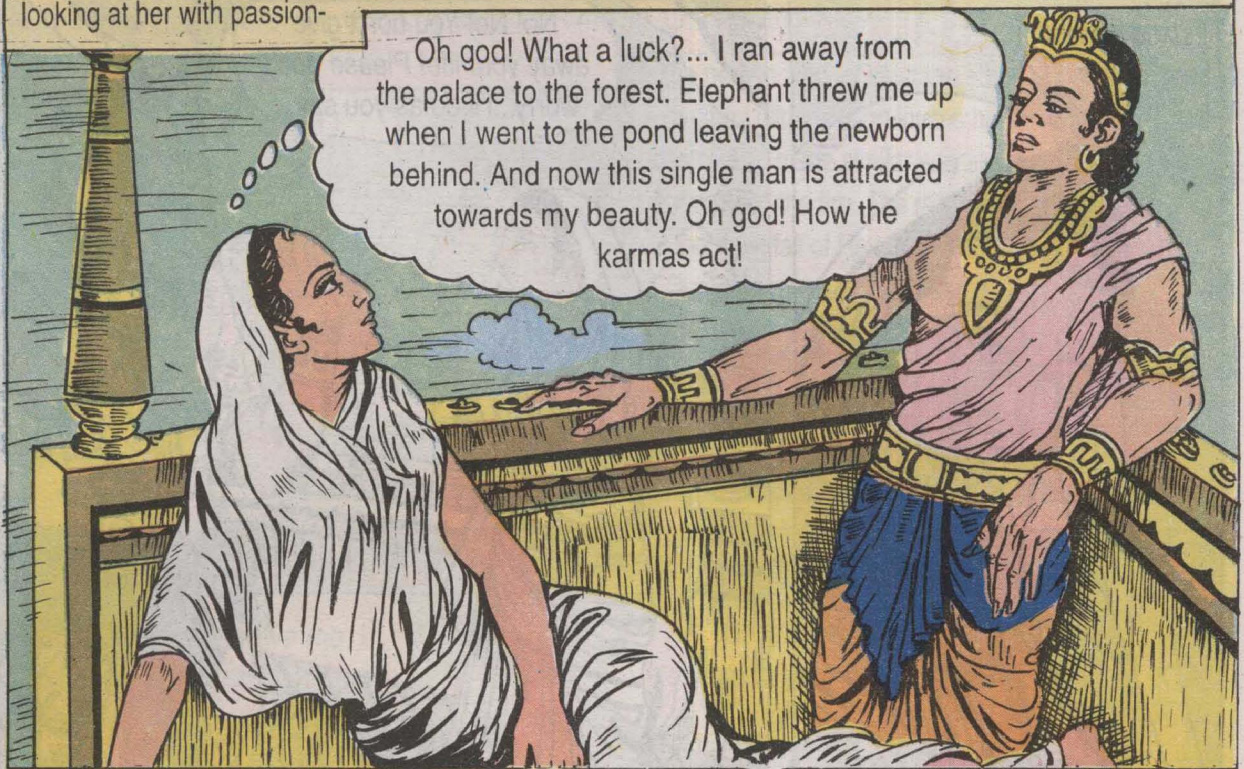


And he returned the plane in the reverse direction.

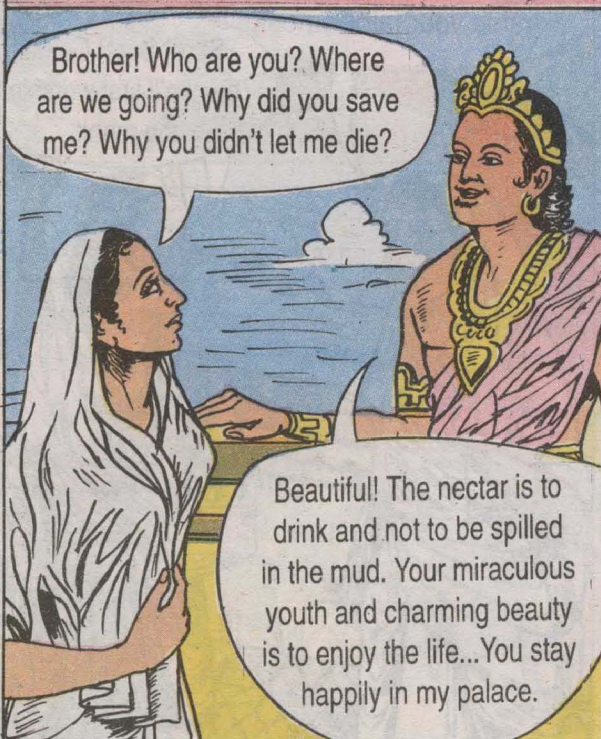
First I'll take her to the palace and then I'll go ahead.



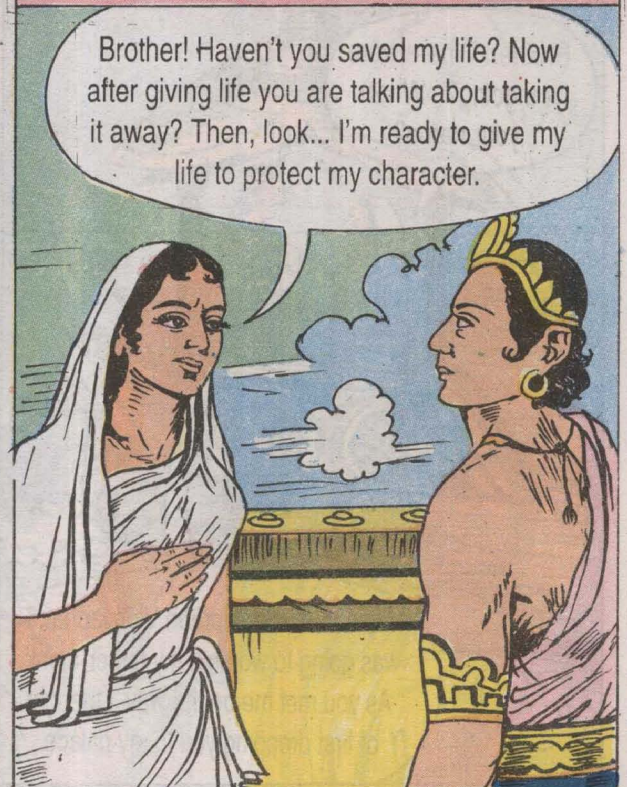
Madanrekha regained consciousness after sometime. She was frightened to see a Vidhyadhar youngman looking at her with passion-



Vidhyadhar, youngman looked at Madanrekha with the smile. Madanrekha asked with courage-



Madanrekha first got angry but then immediately controlled herself-



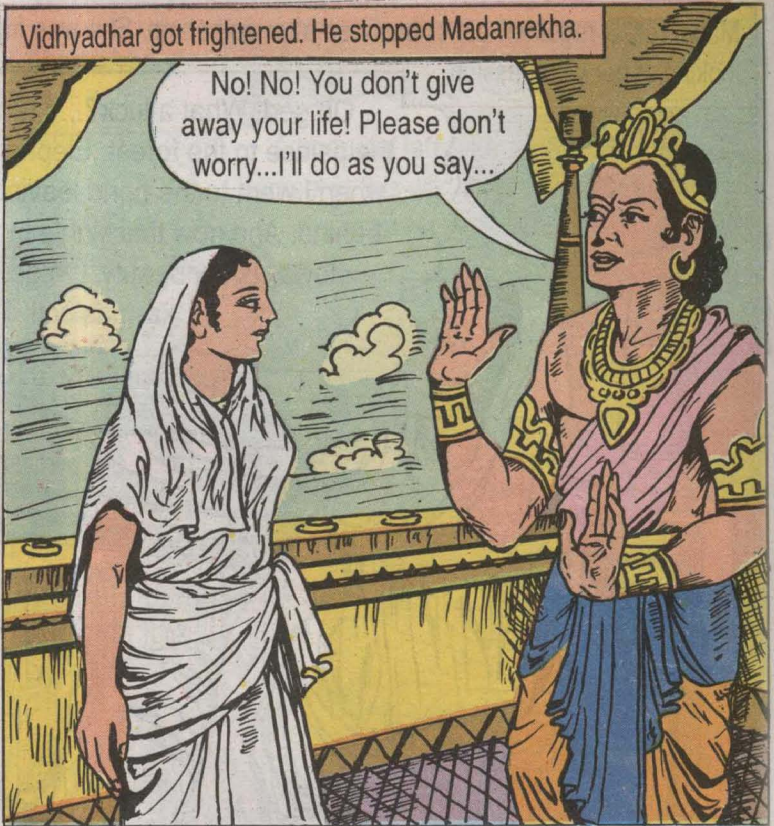
Madanrekha pulled her tongue.

It's better to die than being character-less.



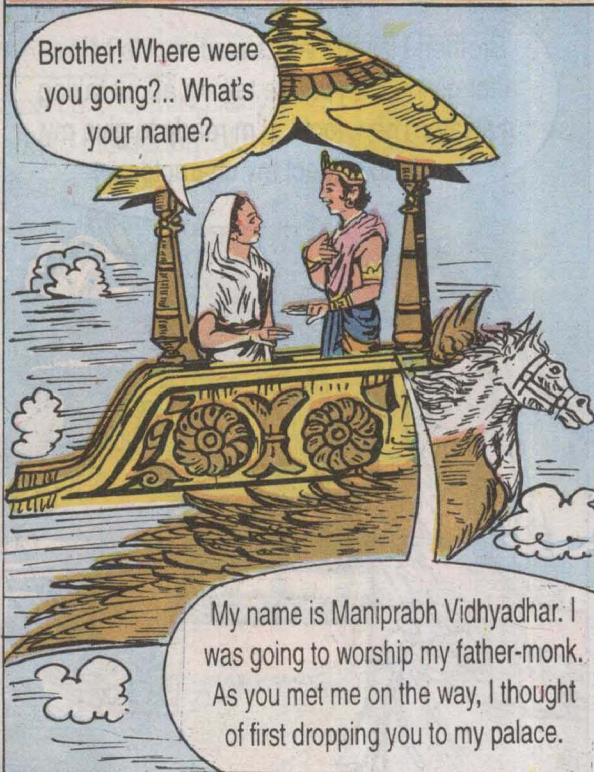
Vidhyadhar got frightened. He stopped Madanrekha.

No! No! You don't give away your life! Please don't worry...I'll do as you say...



Madanrekha asked Vidhyadhar after feeling comfortable-

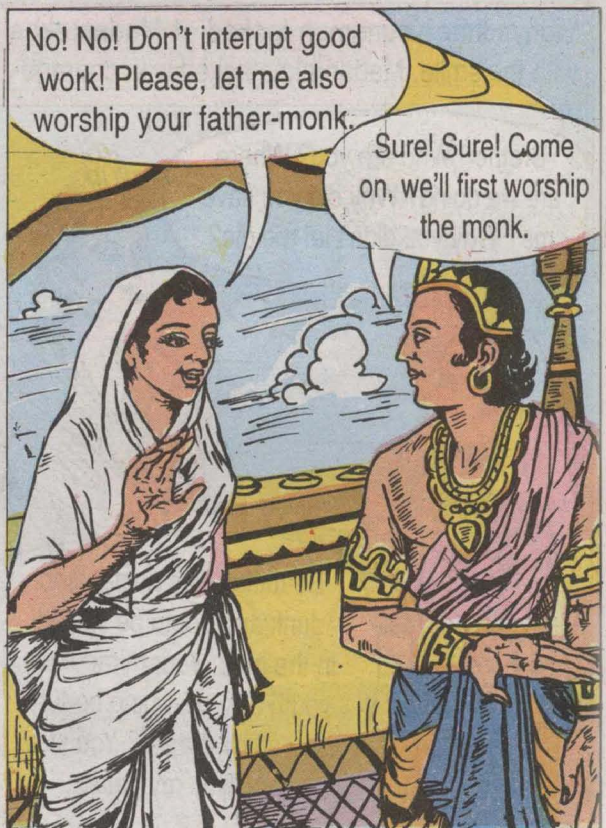
Brother! Where were you going?... What's your name?



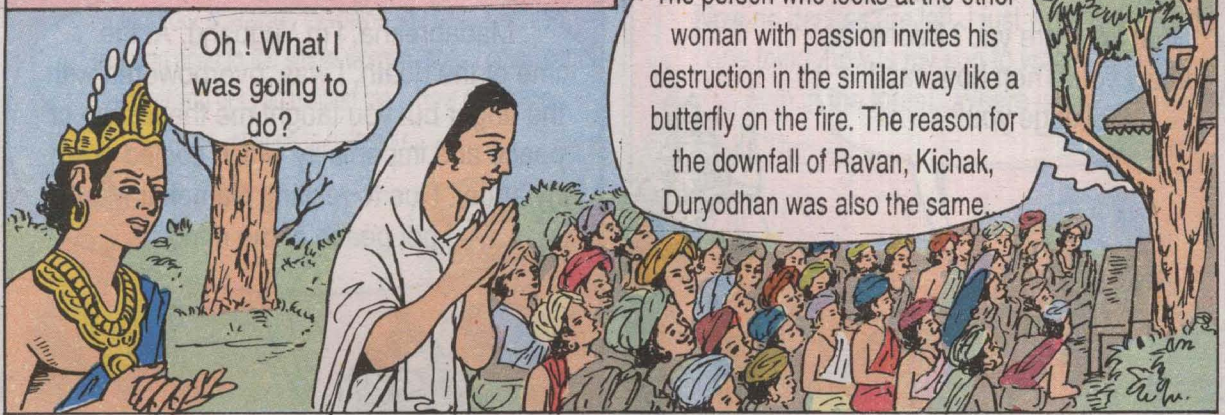
My name is Maniprabh Vidhyadhar. I was going to worship my father-monk. As you met me on the way, I thought of first dropping you to my palace.

No! No! Don't interrupt good work! Please, let me also worship your father-monk.

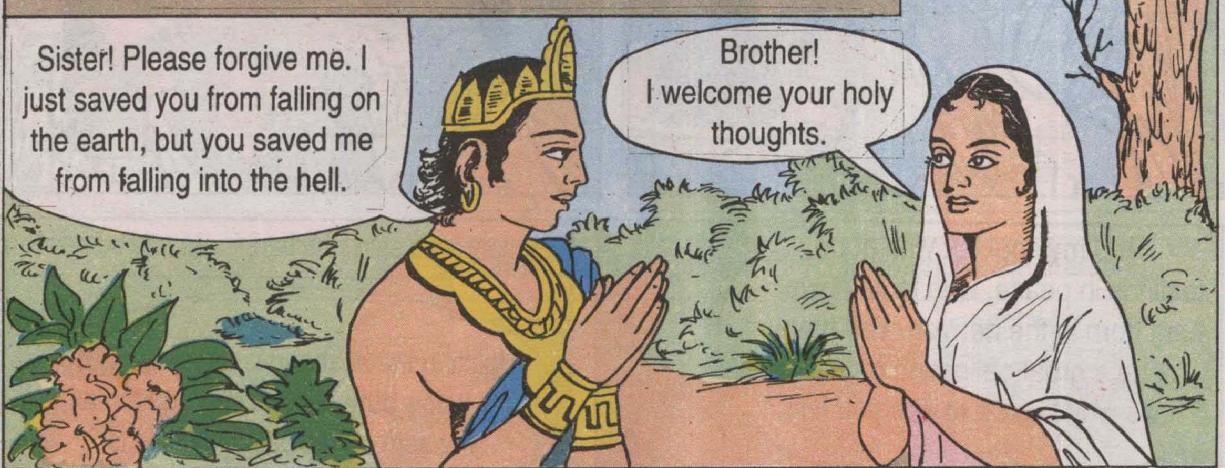
Sure! Sure! Come on, we'll first worship the monk.



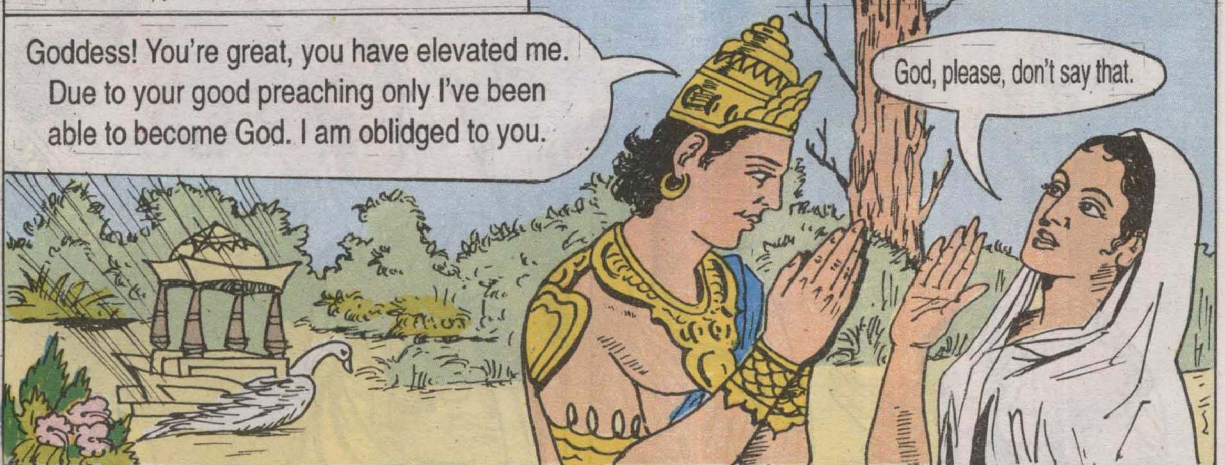
Vidhyadhar reached straight to the monk's dharmasabha with Madanrekha. Monk was an expert in reading other person's mind. It took no time to understand his son's bad thoughts. So he preached on that subject-



The monk's effective preaching opened the eyes of Maniprabh Vidhyadhar.



Then a plane came down from the sky. An angel came out from there. He came right in "space" front of Madanrekha, bowed down to her and said-



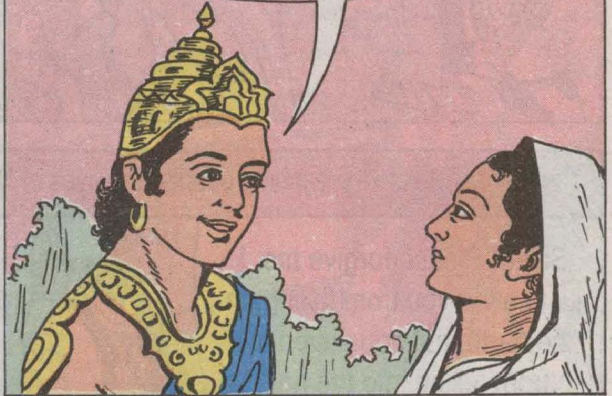
Madanrekha was surprised-

God! Who are you? I don't know you. Then how can I oblige you?

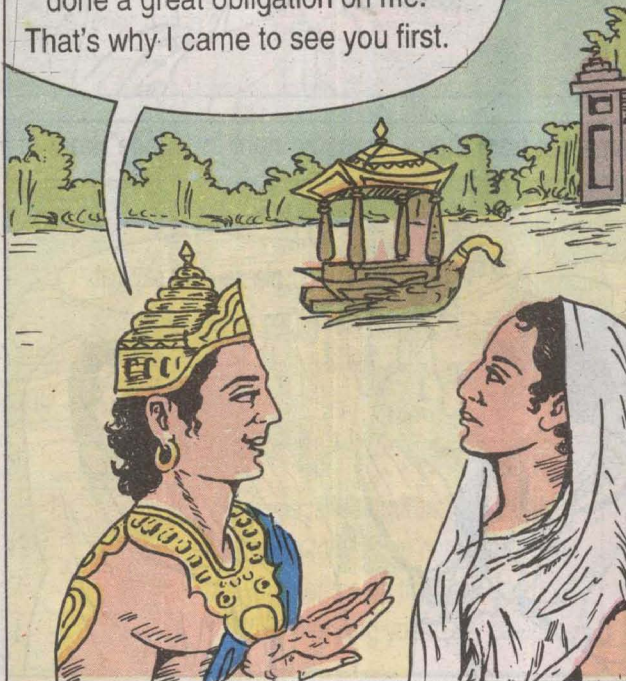


God said-

Madanrekha, I'm Yugbahu. At the time of the death, I was overpowered with the anger but you taught me the lesson of peace and impartiality which cooled down my anger. Due to reciting Namokar Mantra I got peace of the mind.



...And my soul left with good feelings in peace. Due to its power I am born in the heaven. You have done a great obligation on me. That's why I came to see you first.



Madanrekha said with happiness and surprise-

Uplifting the husband is the success of the wife's duty. Today I've forgotten all my sorrow and pains...My life is successful...



God said-

Madanrekha! The sacrifice that you have shown to protect your character, the pains you have tolerated, will bring pride to the whole women race...I could not protect you but you uplifted me... Now give me a chance to help you....

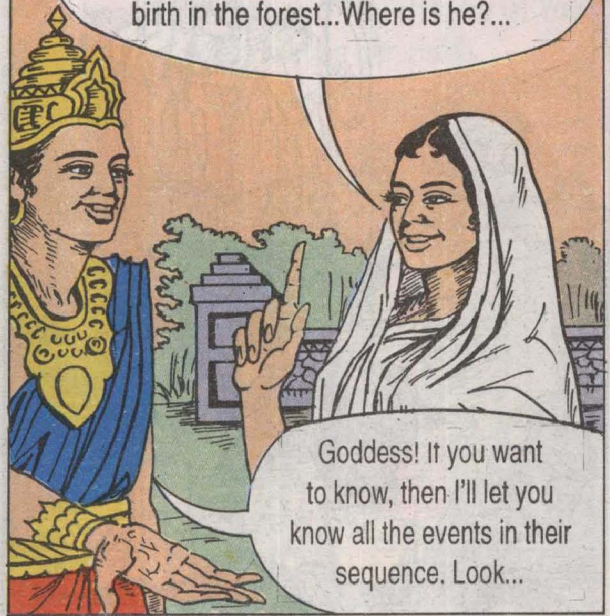
God, please, don't say that



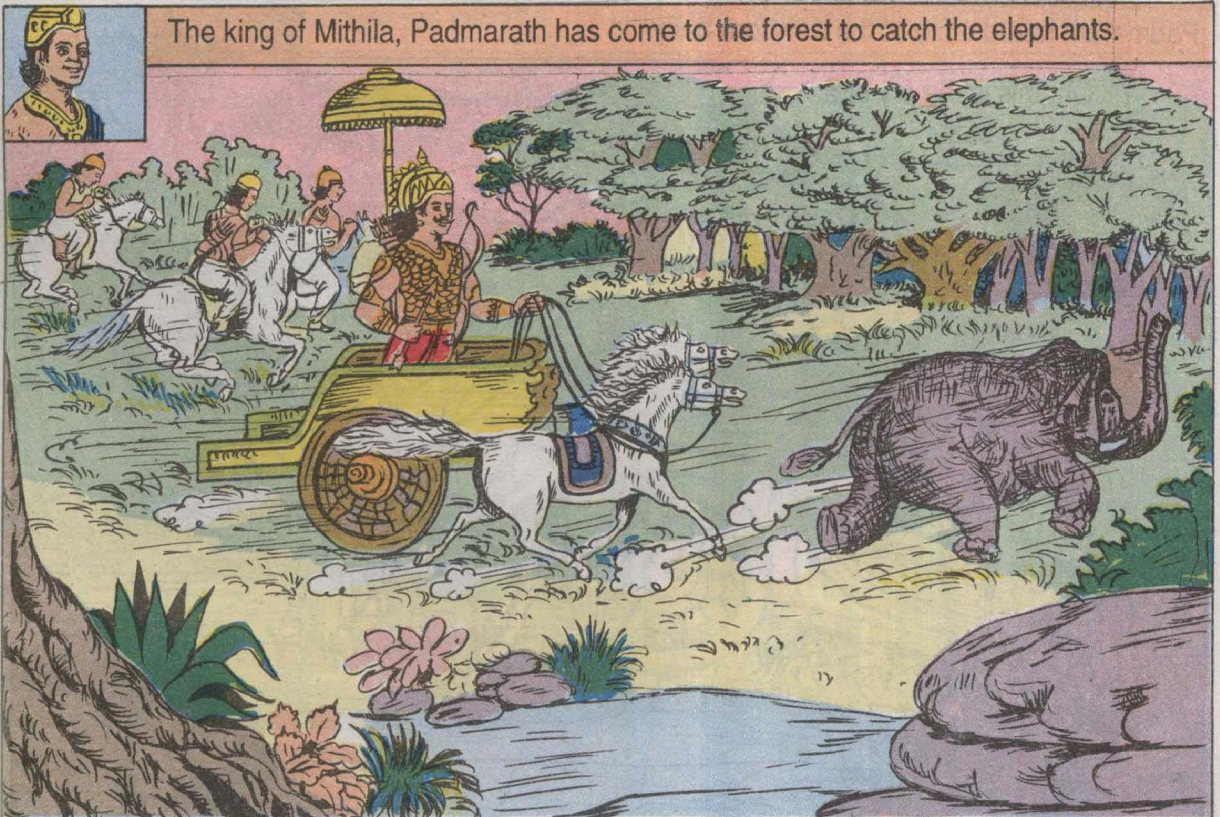
Madanrekha said-

I've got everything as your life is uplifted.. Now no desires are left, I just want to know one thing, how is my son to whom I gave birth in the forest...Where is he?...

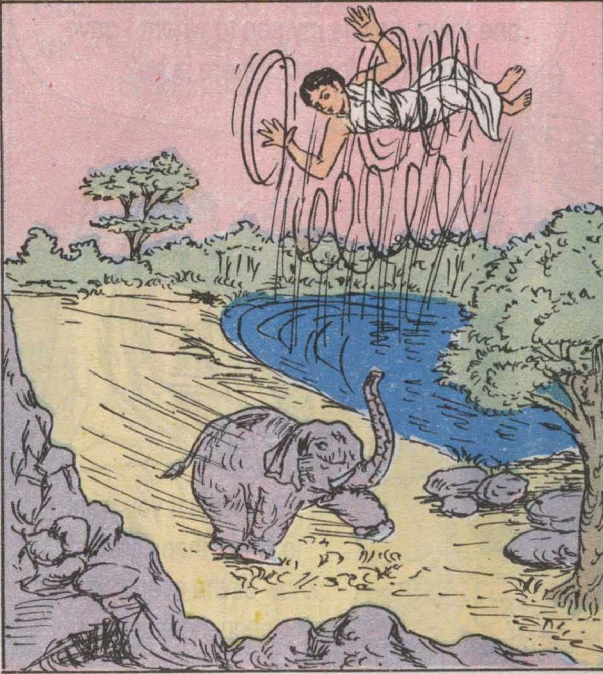
Goddess! If you want to know, then I'll let you know all the events in their sequence. Look...



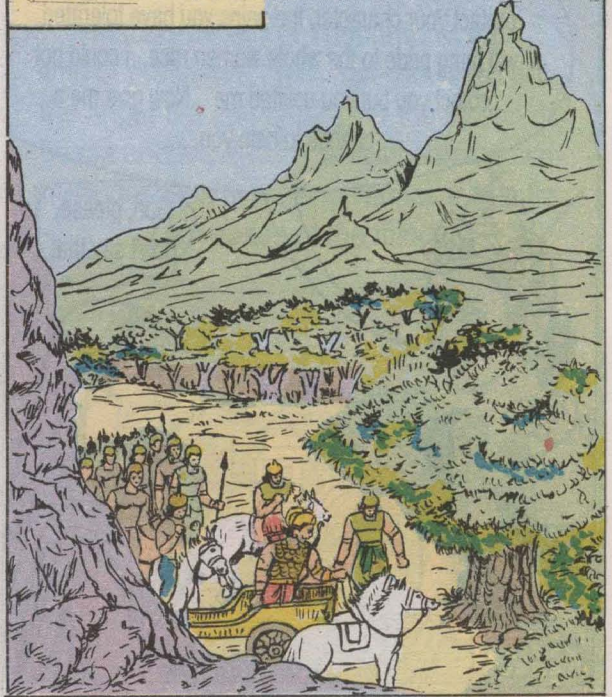
The king of Mithila, Padmarath has come to the forest to catch the elephants.



One huge elephant came running angrily due to the noise. It thought hidden Madanrekha as its enemy and thus threw her in the air with the trunk.



The king Padmarath along with his army reached there following the elephant. The elephant ran towards the deep forest.



Padmarath heard a cry of the newborn baby.



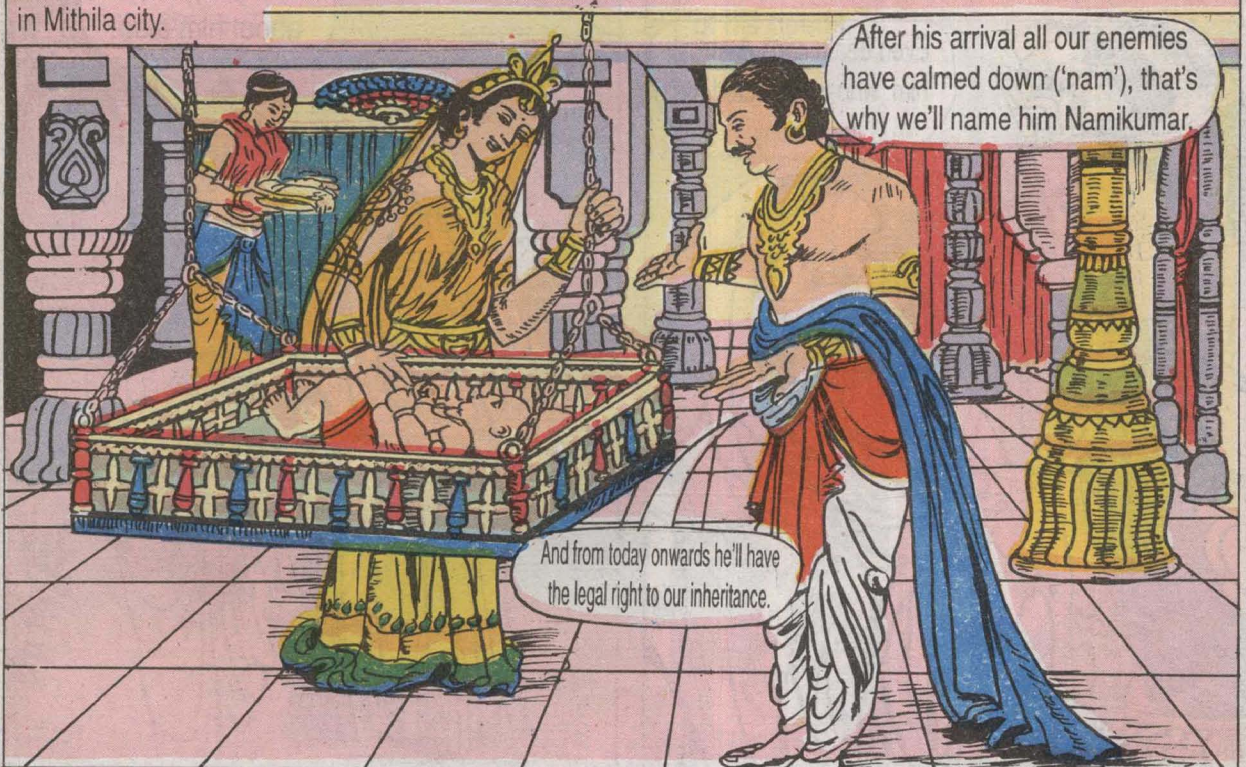
When Padmarath came cluster and saw the baby, he was very happy.



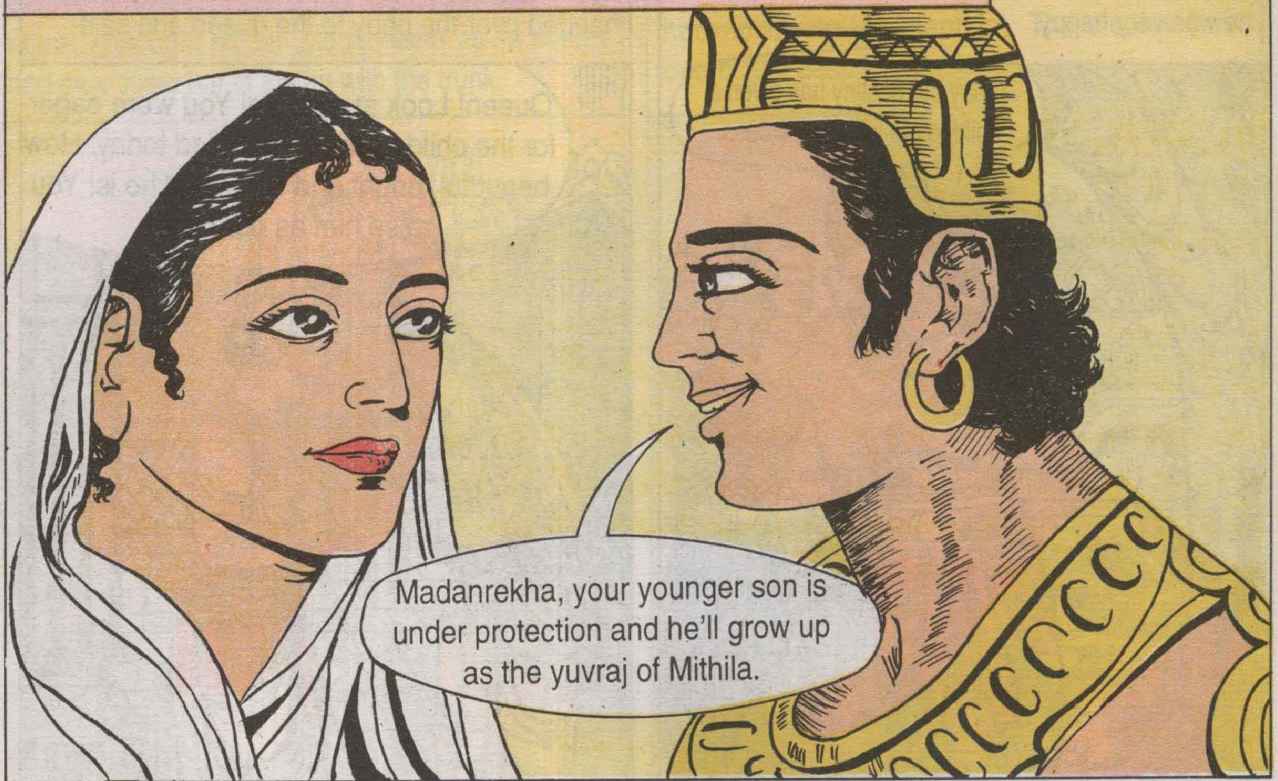
The king Padmarath returned to Mithila and handed over the baby to the queen and said-



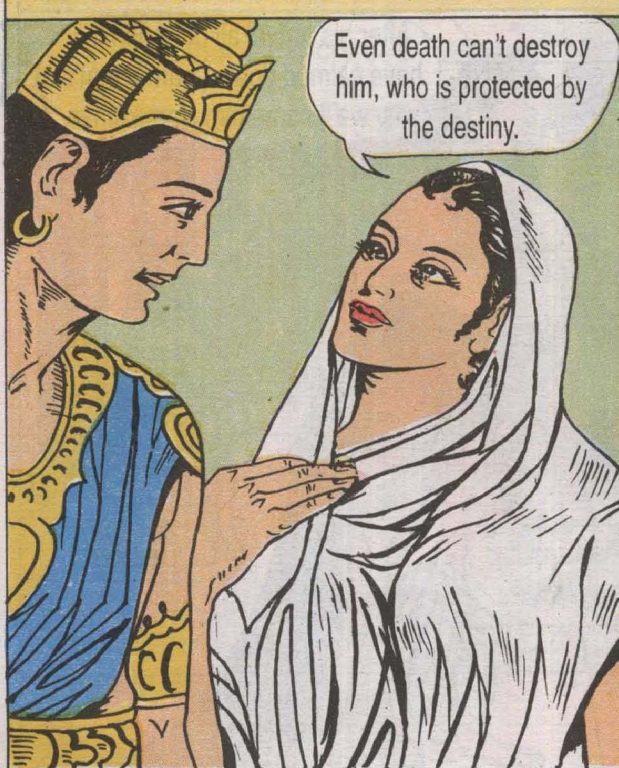
The queen was also very happy to see the child. The child's birth ceremony was celebrated with grandeur in Mithila city.



God showed all these events to Madanrekha and said-



Madanrekha's eyes were filled with tears of happiness.



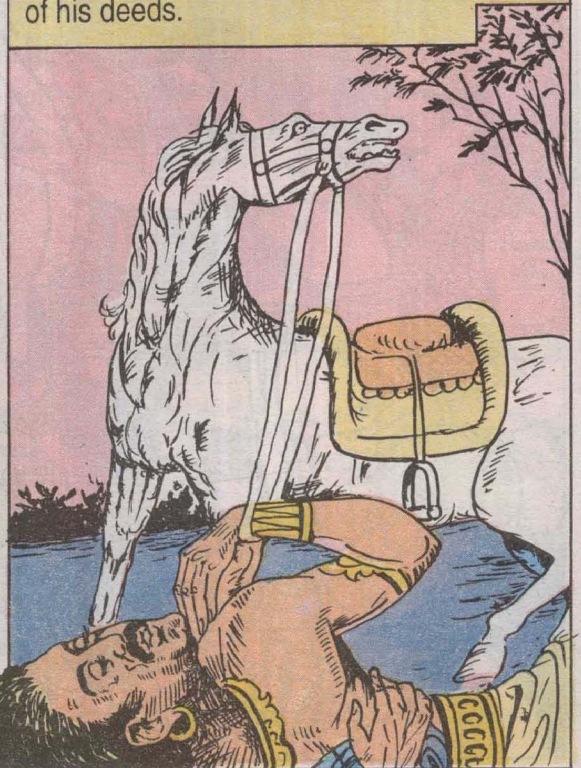
Brother Manirath ran in the dark after attacking me.



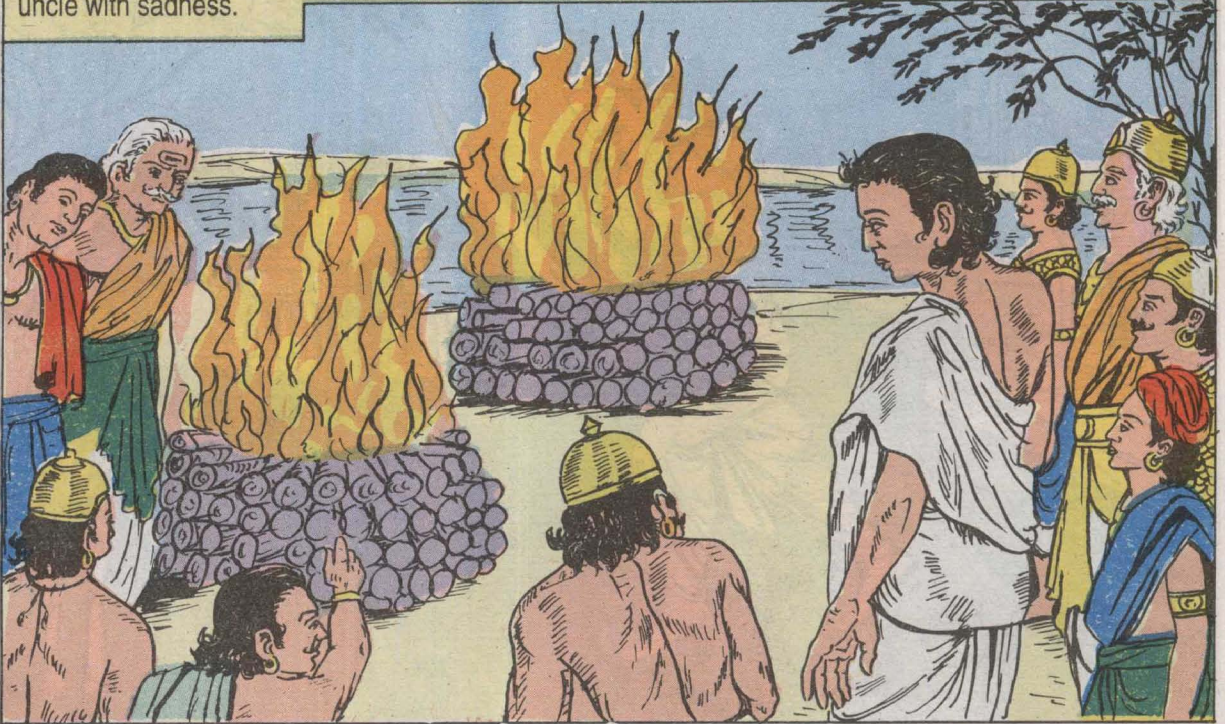
While running he tripped over the black snake. Poisonous snake stung him.



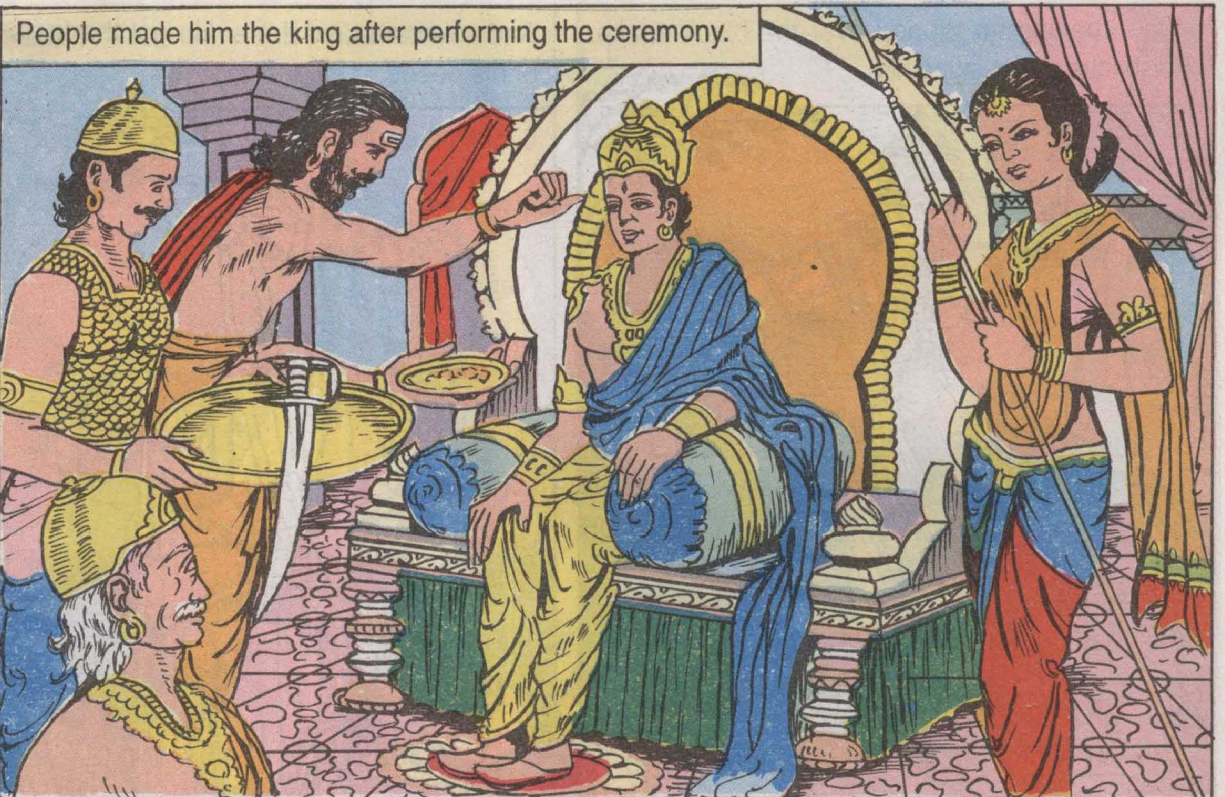
And Manirath died there. He got the fruits of his deeds.



When Chandrayash came to know about this, he performed the funeral ceremony of his father and his uncle with sadness.



People made him the king after performing the ceremony.



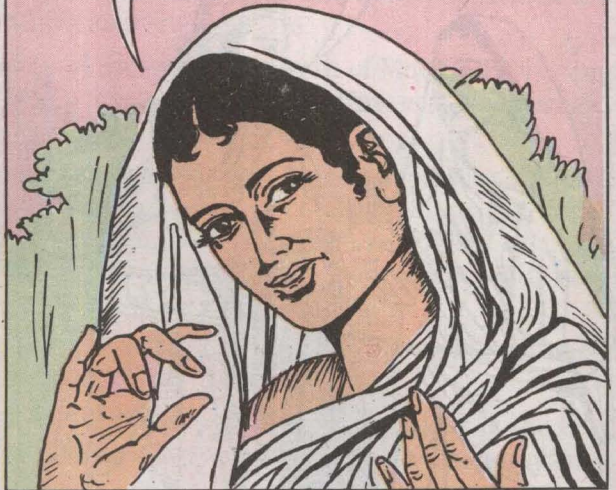
God said after showing the events-

Goddess, now the days of your sorrow are over... Now, wherever you want to stay with whichever son, I'll take you there.



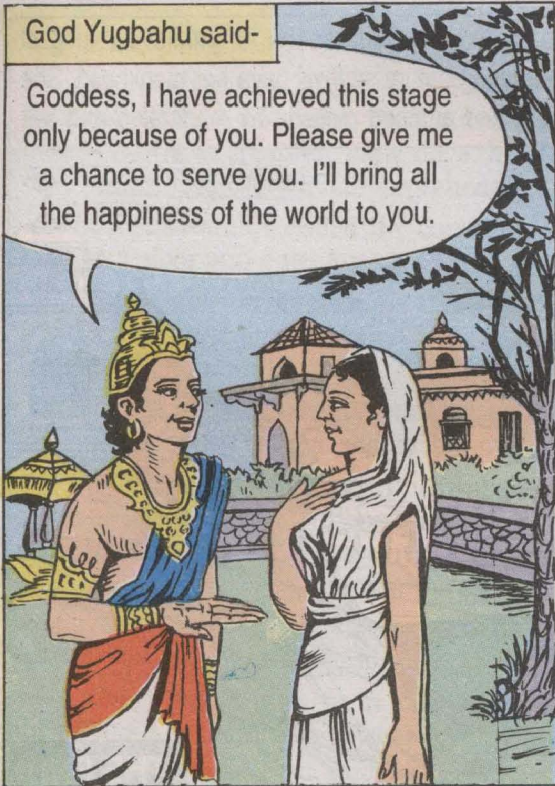
Madanrekha said-

God, my husband is in the heaven, sons are happy, then why should I worry...? Now I want to prosper spiritually. That's why you take me at the place where good lady monks are there. I'll accept monkhood and prosper myself on the path of meditation, self mortification and restraint.



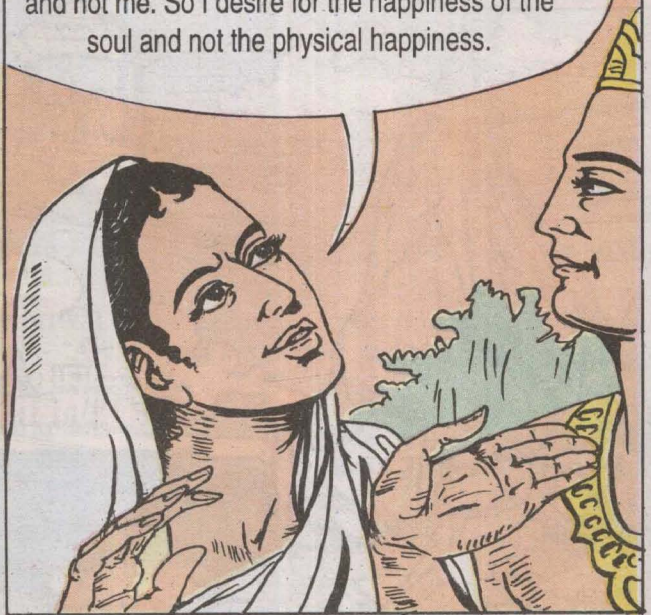
God Yugbahu said-

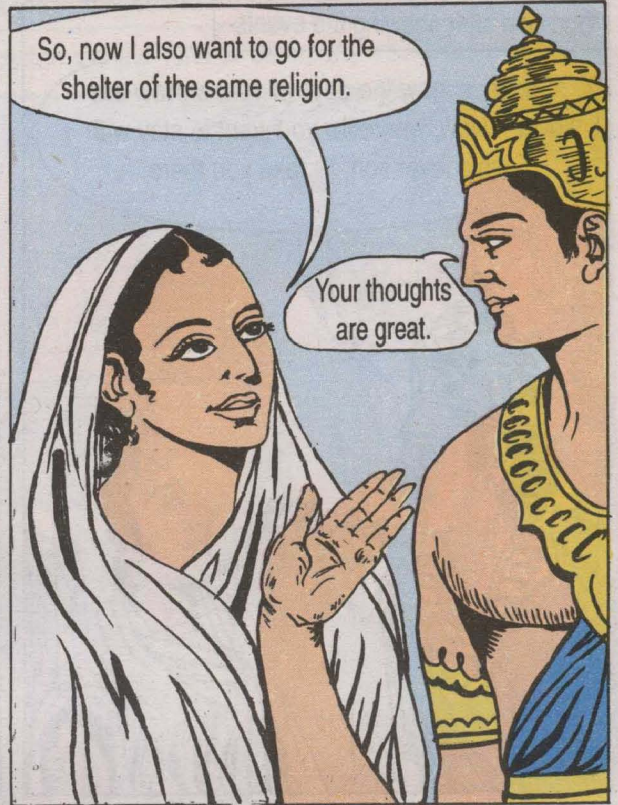
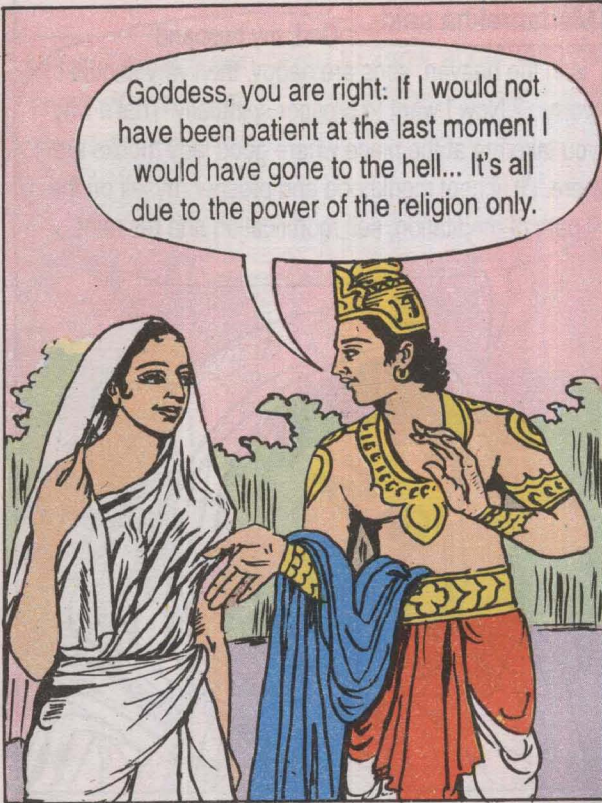
Goddess, I have achieved this stage only because of you. Please give me a chance to serve you. I'll bring all the happiness of the world to you.



Madanrekha said with smile-

God! Why do you forget that this holy stage is achieved by you due to the power of the religion and not me. So I desire for the happiness of the soul and not the physical happiness.





God made Madanrekha to sit in the plane and took her to the sadhvi Sudarshana at Mithila. Looking at Madanrekha's non-attachment to worldly things, politeness and daring nature sadhviji gave her monkhood. She was named Suvrata. Sati Madanrekha became sadhvi Suvrata and attained moksha by meditation and self mortification.



The meeting of two brothers and Namiraj's Pravrajya

The god Yugbahu took the sati Madanrekha to sadhvi Sudarshanaji at Mithila.

Sadhvi permitted Madanrekha for the nunhood looking at her non attachment to the worldly things. Then she accepted nunhood from sadhvi Sudarshanaji and absorbed herself into the penance, meditation and self mortification without meeting her sons.

Namikumar was brought up in the royal palace of the king Padmarath of Mithila. He became expert in all the fields when reached his youth. Due to his bravery and smartness in politics many kings started following him.

Once Namiraj's beautiful, huge elephant went crazy and ran away to the forest. Namiraj loved him very much due to his good qualities. Namiraj's army tried to catch elephant but didn't succeed. He ran away to the forests of the nearby kingdom, Sudarshanpur. Yugbahu's elder son Chandrayash ruled Sudarshanpur. People complained to the king Chandrayash that a huge elephant is destroying our fields and harassing us. Please protect us.

Chandrayash was also brave and expert in politics. He caught that elephant with his tacts and tied him in his elephant's parlour.

Namiraj's spies found out that their elephant has reached to the elephant-parlour of the king of Sudarshanpur. So they informed the king Nami. Namiraj sent a messenger to Chandrayash - to return their elephant.

Chandrayash replied- "we don't know whose elephant is this, but it has harassed our people, has destroyed our fields, thus he is our accused. We can't release our accused.

"When problem couldn't be solved by messages and discussions through the spies, Namiraj attacked on Sudarshanpur. They surrounded the city from all the sides. War continued for many days, blood was shed for many days, but Namiraj's army couldn't break the doors and enter the city. Namiraj was very much apprehensive.

At night Namiraj called the commander-in-chief and ordered- "Tomorrow, anyhow, we must break the door and enter the city.

"In the morning as soon as the bell rang for the war the elephants and the army of soldiers attacked Sudarshanpur from all the sides. Then suddenly two white clothed sadhvis entered towards the Namiraj's war-camp.

When the door-keepers stopped sadhvis at the door, sadhvi Suvrata told him- "Go and inform your king that two sadhvis want to see him.

"Namiraj was surprised to hear about the arrival of the sadhvis at the war-camp. Still he came to see sadhvis. He bowed down and said- "Aryaji, you know that sadhus-sadhvis don't come to the war-camp, then why did you do this?

"Sadhvi Suvrata said- King! I know that shramans can't enter the war-camp, but sometimes we have to choose exceptional ways to stop the violence. We came here to see you and guide you to think this over at the appropriate time.

Namiraj- "Just now I'm in a hurry for the war, this is neither the time to talk nor to listen to the religious preaching, so please tell me in short and return.

"Sadhvi Suvrata- "King! I've come to ask you just one thing, that this severe human violence is for what?"

Namiraj said, after too much of insistance from sadhvi Suvrata- "The king of Sudarshanpur, Chandrayash has prisoned my favourite elephant. We want to take our elephant back but he's not giving up, this is the reason for the war."

Sadhvi Suvrata said with smile- "King! Whether an elephant's value is more than the blood of thousands of humans?"

"Namiraj- "Aryaji! It is not a question of an elephant's value but it's a question of politics.

"Sadhvi Suvrata- "If an elder brother takes some belonging of the younger brother, then do you announce war for that?"

"Namiraj got excited and said- "Aryaji! It will be better if you don't raise unnecessary questions in this war-camp, I can't understand where is the situation of younger and elder brother here?"

Sadhvi Suvrata- "King! This is really the ignorance. And ignorance is the root of the misdeeds. You don't know that the king Chandrayash with whom you are doing severe war is your real elder brother."

Namiraj got excited- "Aryaji! You are bound to tell the truth. This story without any head and tail doesn't suit from your mouth. And I'm the only son of the king Padmarath. I don't have any brother. My mother had given birth to the only child."

Sadhvi Suvrata- (with smile) "King! Whatever you know is not the truth and whatever is the truth you are not aware of. This is your ignorance. You keep faith that sadhvies don't speak lie ever.

"Namiraj- "Then what is the truth? Do you know who are my mother and father?"

Sadhvi Suvrata- "Yes, I have come here to tell you about it. You are not the son of the king Padmarath but you are the second son of late king Yugbahu of Sudarshanpur, Chandrayash is your brother."

Namiraj- "Who is my mother?"

Sadhvi Suvrata- "She is standing in front of you. Look into my eyes, can't you feel the love of 'mother' in my eyes? Whether my loving talk hasn't touched your heart?"

Namiraj looked shockingly at Sadhvi Suvrataji.

Sadhvi told the whole story about the past to Namiraj. He bowed down to his mother and was eager to see the elder brother. Sadhvi Suvrataji said- "Don't be in a hurry, first I'll go to the king Chandrayash." Sadhvi Suvrataji sent message through the door keepers of the Sudarshanpur to the king Chandrayash- your mother Madanrekha wants to see you. Chandrayash came running as soon as informed. He was first surprised to see the mother in the dress of a sadhvi. Then on listening to the whole event he himself ran to see his brother Namiraj. The battle field became the meeting place of both the brothers. Sadhvi Suvrataji's timely guidance stopped the human violence and stream of love and peace flew among the people of both the cities.

At the end Chandrayash handed over the kingdom of Sudarshanpur to Namiraj and accepted the monkhood.

Namiraj ruled as a brave emperor for many years. Once he suffered from fever which couldn't be relieved after many treatments. The queens were scrubbing sandalwood for its paste to be applied on the body. Namiraj became restless due to the sound of the bengals. So the queens wore one bengal in each hand and started scrubbing sandalwood again. When Namiraj asked why there is no noise now? The queens said- The only bengal doesn't make noise.

Thinking on this answer Namiraj's inner soul was awakened, "There is a peace in the loneliness, disturbance is produced due to the friction of the two." Namiraj absorbed himself deeply into these thoughts. His fever settled down, he left the kingdom and walked alone on the path of the meditation. Uttaradhyayan Sutra's Namipavvajja adhyayan focuses on the beautiful questionnaires between Namiraj and Indra maharaj which talks about his non attachment to the worldly things.

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HARSH WORDS AND TOLERANCE

1. Even an ordinary man can tolerate the acute pain of a sharp thorn if he has the hope of getting wealth, status, a woman, kingdom, grandeur, etc. as a reward.
2. Truly lofty is the person who tolerates the pain of thorn-like harsh words, simply considering forgiveness to be his ideal and the means of attaining liberation.

Dasavaikalika Sutra (Chapter 9/3, verses 6-7)